

Documentary Evidence Secured by the SWP and YSA

The Fourth International a Target of the CIA

By David Frankel

Maker and breaker of governments, sponsor of private armies, source of the most sophisticated instruments of torture and of the most sensitive electronic surveillance devices, the Central Intelligence Agency pollutes the political life of six continents.

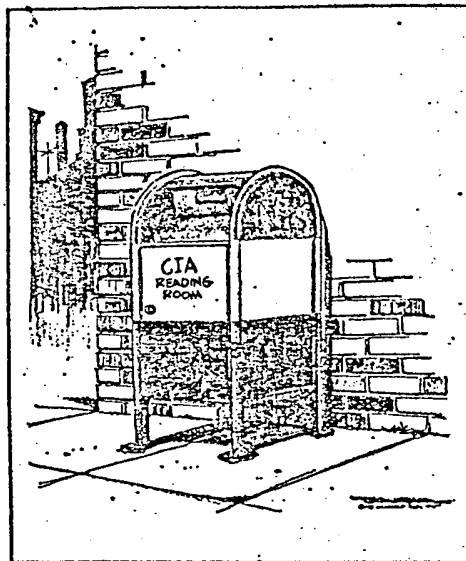
Now, the CIA has been forced to hand over hundreds of documents on its secret operations around the world to the Socialist Workers party (SWP) and Young Socialist Alliance (YSA). The CIA documents were made public as a result of a suit initiated by the SWP and YSA against the U.S. government's illegal surveillance and harassment of dissident individuals and organizations. The SWP and YSA are demanding an injunction against further government abuses and \$40 million in damages.

Only a tiny portion of the CIA's massive file on the world Trotskyist movement has been released so far. Adopting the same method employed by Richard Nixon to hide the truth from the masses of people, the CIA insists that release of many of its files would endanger "national security." Even those that have been turned over to the SWP and YSA have been heavily censored. Nevertheless, what emerges from the documents is a vast campaign to disrupt and destroy the Fourth International.

Further information has been obtained through the sworn statements of CIA officials. Acting under court order, a number of CIA officials, including CIA Director George Bush, have been forced to answer questions about some of the activities of the agency in regard to the SWP and YSA. According to this sworn testimony:

- CIA burglars carried out break-ins directed against SWP and YSA members travelling abroad. These operations, delicately labeled "surreptitious entry" by Bush, are illegal by whatever name they are called. With this in mind, the CIA has refused to name the countries where the burglaries took place or say when they occurred. Perhaps the agency hopes to save embarrassment for friendly governments and police forces that may have cooperated with it in breaking their own laws.

- Electronic surveillance was used against SWP and YSA members travelling abroad. Most countries have laws against this type of activity, and again, the CIA has declined to say when and where it used this technique to gather information.



Conrad/Los Angeles Times

- A mail cover was maintained on some correspondence to and from the American Trotskyists. This included the opening and copying of letters, in clear violation of the law.

- Information on the SWP and YSA was obtained by the CIA through the use of informers.

- Although it refused to supply any information about the countries involved, the type of information sought or obtained, and what was done with this information, the CIA did admit that information on the SWP and YSA was both given to and received from foreign governments.

- Finally, the agency admitted that it "has engaged in the collection of information concerning the Fourth International." It refused to say what type of information on the Fourth International was obtained, how it was obtained, or when it was obtained.

However, the general approach of the CIA was outlined by one official, Paul F. Haefner. Interrogated by lawyers for the SWP and YSA, Haefner at first refused to answer the question: "was the overseas office [of the CIA] limited in any manner in the methods it was to pursue?"

In November—five months after the original interview—the government had second thoughts and decided to submit an answer to the question. A sworn affidavit from Haefner explained that "the senior CIA officer in any country abroad is always obligated to use his best judgment

operations finally came to light the U.S. attorney general ruled that no American laws had been broken.

The French Connection

For a closer look at the CIA's war against democratic rights, it is necessary to turn to the documents obtained by the SWP and YSA through their suit. In CIA jargon, these documents have been "sanitized"—that is, they have been censored in order to remove all traces of the agency's illegal conspiracies against the exercise of democratic rights around the world.

Paragraph after paragraph in the documents released by the CIA is blanked out and marked "classified information pertaining to intelligence sources and methods," "classified matter," "administrative matter," "CIA internal organizational data," or "material not related to subject." But virtually all of the CIA's activities are directed against the democratic rights of the working people around the world. Thus, not even the heavy hand of the CIA censor was able to totally erase the damaging material in these files.

One thing that comes through clearly in the CIA documents is the complicity of other governments in CIA activities. The CIA demands its actions be kept secret from the masses of working people both inside and outside the United States, but its burglaries, wiretaps, and agents are well known to the governments allied with American imperialism around the world—including, of course, the imperialist democracies in Europe.

The cordial relations between the CIA and the French secret police, for example, are indicated in a number of documents. A